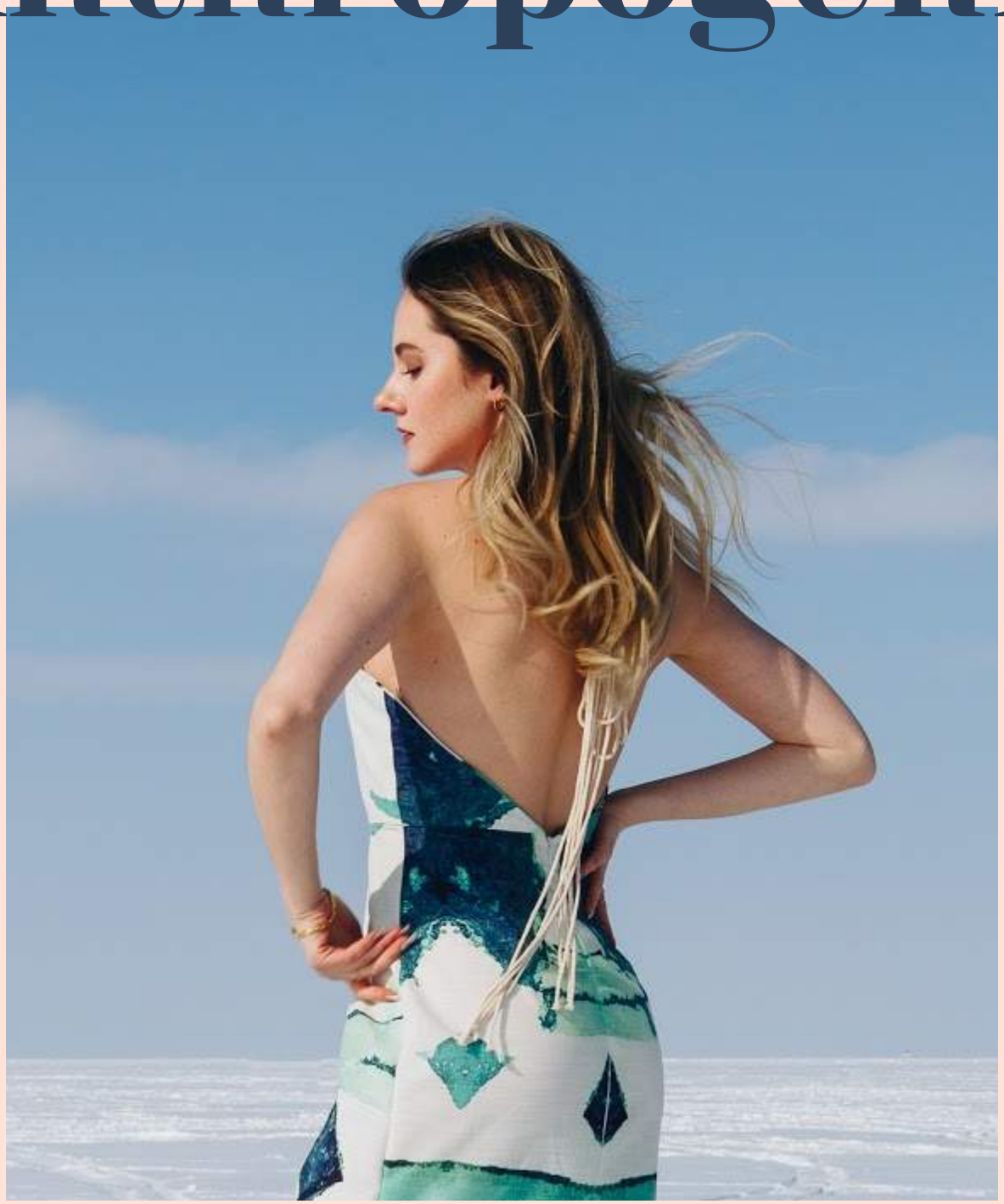
KAYLA KOBILIS

Anthropogenic



THE COLLECTION

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Anthropogenic

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About the Designer:
Kayla Kobilis

Kayla Kobilis is a fashion designer originally from Mentor, Ohio. She is an alumnus of Kent State University and graduated in 2021 with her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in fashion design. As a designer, Kayla gravitates to the contemporary womenswear market, primarily in the Resort and Accessories categories. Her design aesthetic incorporates minimalistic detailing paired with classic silhouettes and bright and colorful prints that mend together to create youthful and fun collections. Kayla is also passionate about other facets of the creative process such as print development, natural dyeing techniques, textiles, and sustainability. She prides herself on creating sustainable yet marketable designs that are low-impact and can be worn for years to come.

This magazine is a cumulation of a years work to create Kayla's final senior collection as an undergraduate. This collection showcases the various skills she has attained and highlights a topic of discussion that is important to her as a designer. During her time at university, she has studied the effects the fashion industry has on Earth and is determined to be a part of the solution to creating a more circular form of production and consumption within the industry.

Thesis Summary: *Anthropogenic*

THE CONCEPT BEHIND ANTHROPOGENIC

This collection was developed and produced throughout Kayla's senior year in the fashion program at Kent. It is inspired by the Anthropocene, the era in which we are currently living. This era is considered to be the most influential era of human existence, good and bad, on the Earth. Human influence on nature, specifically, has increased with negative consequences since the Industrial Revolution. With growing concerns of Global Warming, and the fashion industry being a fairly large part of the issue globally, designers and consumers alike must find ways to combat and address these issues and concerns.

As a designer, Kayla believes it is her duty to shine a light on such issues. During her time at university, she took a class on Sustainability in fashion, where she learned about the multitude of impacts the fashion industry has on this planet. Having watched many documentaries on these issues in class, one documentary titled "A Plastic Ocean" struck her emotionally. It entailed how human impact has been devastating on our oceans, which has lead to many deadly consequences such as the coral reefs being bleached due to over acidity of the water from green house gas emissions and nitrogen fertilizer run-off, to exotic birds in the Galapagos Islands dead on beaches from consuming belly-fulls of broken down plastic waste.

The two major impacts that stuck out to Kayla in this documentary were the harmful impacts of the fishing industry and the pollution of plastic waste floating in the oceans. An article by Oceana.org explains that "More than **50,000 endangered sea turtles may die every year** tangled in nets meant to catch shrimp". The bycatch of marine animals by these nets is increasing by over 40% in recent years. The worst is the pollution of plastic waste, each year 100,000 million marine animals die from plastic waste alone. Other data shows that by 2050, plastic waste will outnumber fish.

While the data is overwhelming, it is also helpful to explain why environmental restoration and preservation should be taken seriously. And so, The title of this collection is titled 'ANTHROPOGENIC' and is meant to be a commentary on human impact of our oceans, specifically focusing on the fishing industry, and the plastic waste littering the oceans. It is a contemporary womenswear collection with sustainability in mind. The use of techniques such as natural dyes, shibori dying, macrame, and digital printing, along with non-industrial closures, emphasize it being a conscious collection that is mean to induce a reaction for change.

MARKET RESEARCH

Looking through WGSN's analysis on *'Buyers' Briefing: Women's Key Details S/S 22'*, I noted a few key points that I wanted to keep in mind during my design development:

Cutouts:
This detail has seen a rise in popularity as post quarantine loungewear has pushed consumers to want a sassier silhouette. According to the analysis on WGSN, cutouts are "*rising the fastest across new season knit jumpers/sweaters (+17% UK, +30% US, +76% DE YoY), according to WGSN e-commerce data.*". The detail is set to appear as subtle midriff cut-aways and backless details.

Scrunched:
This fabric manipulation emerges as the freshest iteration set in place of embellishments and appliqués. The report states that *"scrunched details infiltrate apparel and swim ranges."* based off of hair scrunchies and criossant bags such as the ones from Nanushka.

Feature Straps:
"Feature strapping works as both a decorative and a functional detail, seen across tops, dresses and bottomweights." (WGSN). These details can be adaptable to fit to the consumer and provides a sassier look. This detail works best as back detailing along with midriff cut-outs.

Other Trends: Macrame
Although not an exclusive key point on WGSN, I found several trends that feature macrame or knotted detailing. I found this to be perfect as my inspiration is based on the fishing industry and the many nets they use, and these macrame details pair well with the concept.

Women's Resort '21

METHODOLOGY: SHIBORI & NATURAL DYES

Shibori tie dye comes from ancient Japanese culture. It is a relief style of tie dye where one binds or folds the fabric so that the pattern in which it is manipulated is what creates these intricate patterns. The word Shibori in Japanese comes from the root word *"shiboru"* which means to ring, squeeze or press. This technique can only be done by hand and is traditionally accompanied by the use of natural indigo dye to create a beautiful deep blue pattern. I used the technique of *"kyokechi"*, which is the technique of folding the fabric and pressing it between two wooden blocks.

I used this technique because I found it to be a fascinating and beautiful way of manipulating fabric and creating one-of-a-kind prints. This technique also emulates my inspiration as it mimics the tides and ripples of the ocean, while also mimicking net-like patterns.

The indigo dye that is traditionally used for this technique is derived from the Indigofera tinctoria. The leaves of this plant are used to create an organic compound that can be turned into a dye used to create this beautiful deep blue.

Other natural dyes such as turmeric and morrow root, are used within the collection as well. The turmeric creates a beautiful golden-rod yellow, and the morrow root creates a rustic, earthy red tone. These dyes are also considered natural dyes that are a non-toxic and organic method of dying fabric.

Materials

LINEN
GOTS CERTIFIED COTTON

Light and medium weights used throughout collection. The Medium weight feature the digital printed terrazzo and the light weights are used for the shibori and turmeric dyes

MODAL TENCEL PONTE
SUSTAINABLE PONTE KNIT

This Ponte De Roma knit fabric is made of recycled and is great for natural dyes. The dye used for these knit pieces comes from the Morrow Root.

CARVICO VITA
RECYCLED NYLON

This tricot knit is created from recycled polyester and has a soft and luxurious hand.

RECYCLED POLYESTER TRICOT
SWIMWEAR LINING

This lining is recycled from polyester and is a perfect power mesh tricot for lining swimwear

DYES
NATURAL DYES

Turmeric - Golden rod Yellow
Morrow Root - Soft Earthy Red
Indigo - Deep Blue

OTHER MATERIALS
MACRAME + CLOSURES

There are macrame inspired details throughout each garment. closures are mainly lace-up or invisible zipper, and and there are minimal hardware details

MUSLIN DEVELOPMENT

11

Final

Looks

LOOK 1

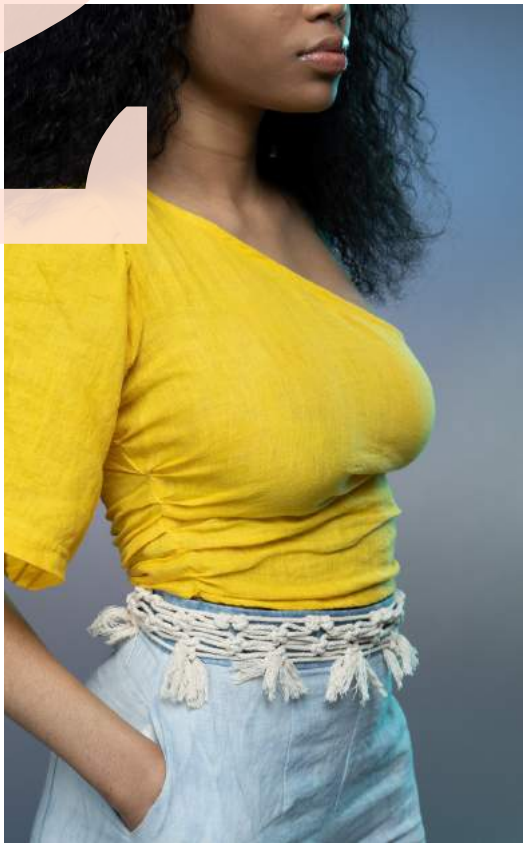
ANTHROPOGENIC

1

This look features a utility-style jacket with macrame detailing. The fabric is a heavy weight linen to provide structure and durability. It is paired with a one-piece swimsuit that is fully lined with power mesh and features cut-outs that accentuate the body. The fabric for the swim suit is a recycled polyester tricot.

LOOK 2

2



This look features an asymmetric top with a bell sleeve that transforms into a ruched puff sleeve to provide versatility to the outfit. This top is garment dyed using turmeric, and has a detachable side-zip closure. The trousers are a straight-leg fit and is high rise. The trousers are dyed using the shibori method to create the subtle rippling pattern. The look is complete with a macrame belt

LOOK 3

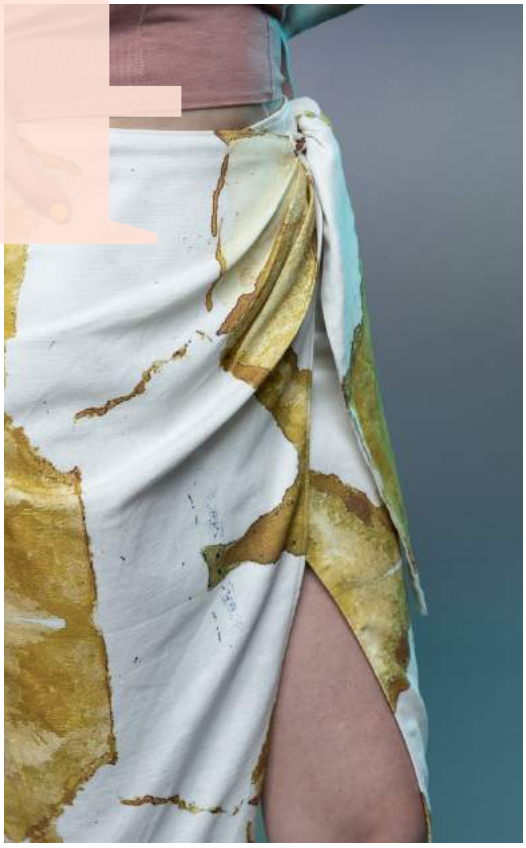
3

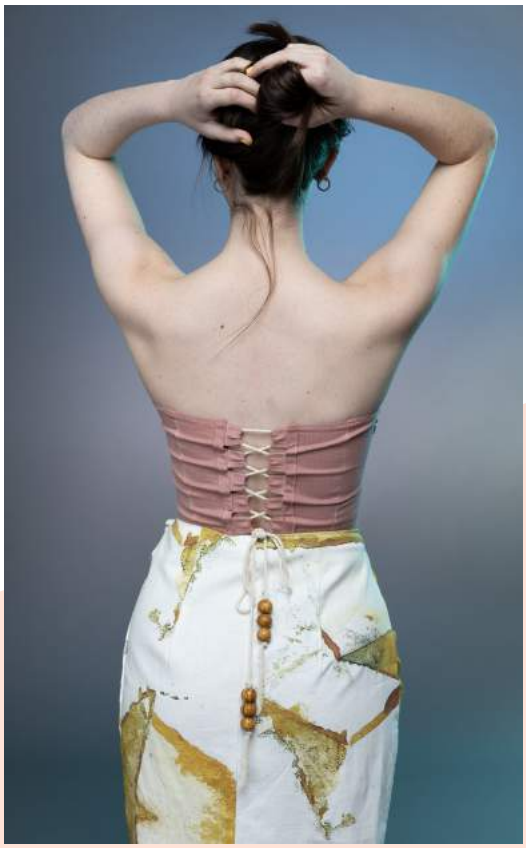
This look features a sheath style dress with over-sized kimono sleeves. It also has a sun-burst style keyhole below the bust, and an asymmetric pleated slit on the princess seam. The primary fabric is a medium-weight linen that is digitally printed, and the waistband is a Modal Tencel knit ponté that is piece dyed using morrow root. The look is complete with a circular macrame bag.

LOOK 4

ANTHROPOGENIC

4





This look features a bodice-style crop top with a lace-up back using the macrame cording. This top is garment dyed using morrow root to create the rusty red color is made from the Modal Tencel ponté knit. The sarong style skirt features a tapered silhouette and an over-sized tie that wraps around without any industrial closures. This skirt is made from the medium weight linen and is digitally printed.

LOOK 5

5

This look features a jumpsuit with a youthful silhouette and a fun cut-out detail. It also has a wide-leg palazzo pant and a back-less lace up detail with the macrame. The whole garment was hand-dyed using the shibori method to create this print resembling the cages used in the fishing industry.

LOOK 6

6

This look features a halter-style body con dress with a ruched key-hole detail on the princess seam. The halter features a double-strap with the macrame cording and beadwork that is also shown in the keyhole as well. this garment is made from the medium weight linen and is digitally pritned.

LOOK 7

7

This look features a bias-cut sundress with a cowl-neck and lace-up back. The dress has an inverted high-low hem, the highest point being at the side-seam and the lowest point being the center-front. The print was produced using the shibori method to create this net-like print and the macrame is used for the straps and the detail on the front of the garment. A farmer's market style macrame bag completes this look.

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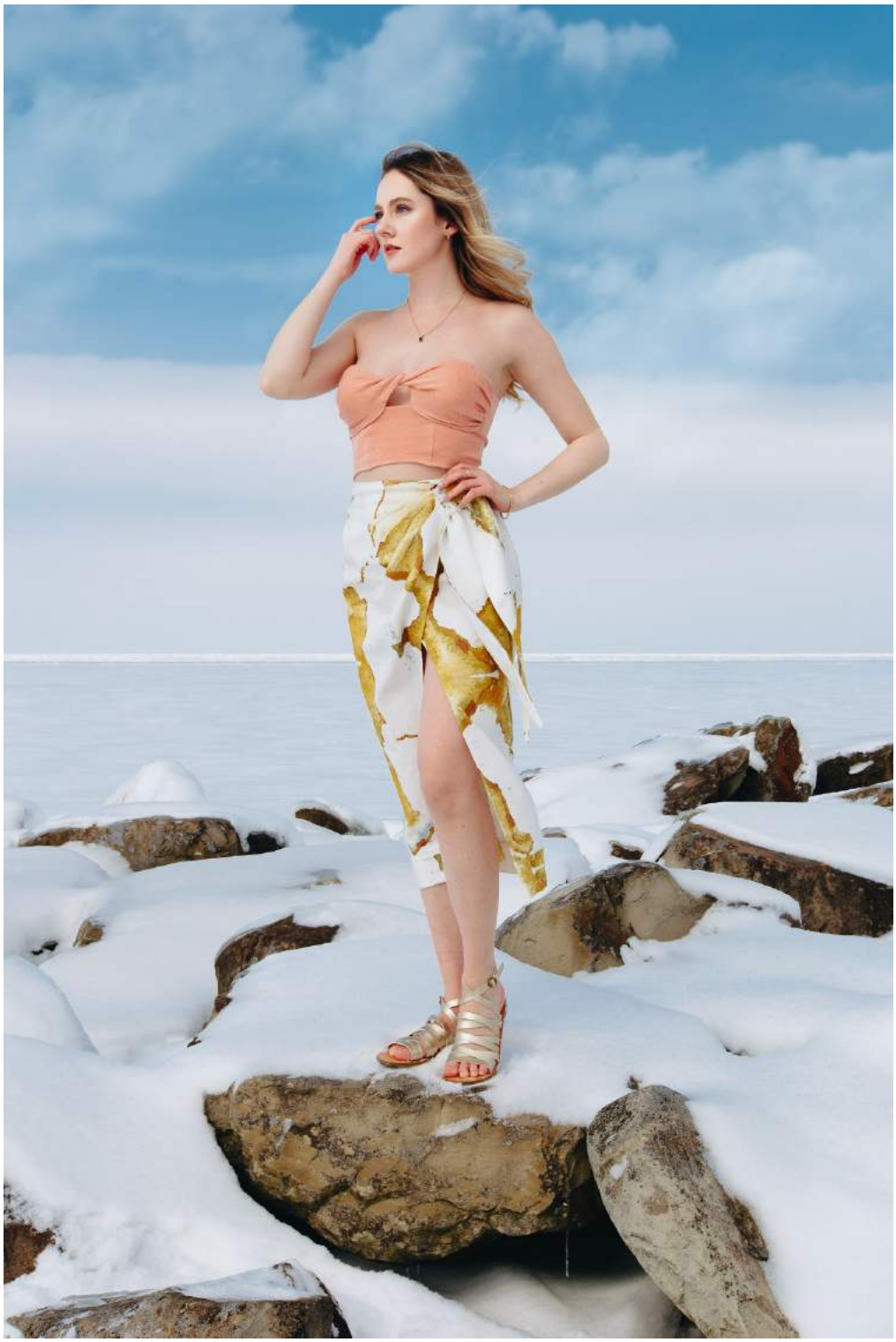
The End



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